



# Your Guide to Child Support & BadgerCare Plus

## WI BUREAU OF CHILD SUPPORT



### Child Support & BadgerCare Plus

#### Cooperation & Good Cause

- Cooperation
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- Privacy protection

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- W-2 Services, Cash Benefits Programs, and Child Support
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- Repaying birth costs

### What does child support have to do with BadgerCare Plus?

Many single, separated, and divorced parents applying for the BadgerCare Plus Program will be referred to the Child Support program. When parents are referred to child support, they get full services. Parents must then cooperate with their child support agency (see page 2). Parents may have to pay some fees for support services they receive. Please see your local child support agency to see what fees may apply to your case.

If parents were not married when the mother applied for BadgerCare Plus, the court might order the father to help pay back BadgerCare Plus for the birth costs. Birth costs include health care costs related to the pregnancy, as well as the birth of the child. For more information, please see the "Guide to Repaying Birth Costs." Guides are available online at [dcf.wisconsin.gov](http://dcf.wisconsin.gov) and from your child support agency.

### I do not know if I was referred to the Child Support program. How can I find out?

Your case worker will not be able to tell you when you first apply for BadgerCare Plus. Contact your local child support agency a week after you enroll in the BadgerCare Plus program. Phone numbers for child support agencies are listed in the phone book under "County Government" or tribal name and online at [dcf.wisconsin.gov](http://dcf.wisconsin.gov).

The referral rules are complicated. A computer program will check the details. If appropriate, parents will be referred to the Child Support program for services.

### What if my BadgerCare Plus case is not referred to child support?

If you are already getting full child support services, your services will continue. If not, you may apply for these services at your local child support agency. Please see your local child support agency to see what fees may apply to your case. You can also find application forms and all child support guides from your child support agency or online at [dcf.wisconsin.gov](http://dcf.wisconsin.gov).

**All parents and guardians** who want full child support services may apply for these services.

## Cooperation and Good Cause

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If needed, the child support agency will try to establish legal fatherhood (paternity). After legal fatherhood is established, the child support agency will ask the court to order child support and medical support. The court may also order either parent or both parents to provide health insurance for the child.

### Cooperation

#### What must I do to cooperate?

You need to:

- Give the child support agency the information they ask for about your child's other parent.
- Keep your appointments with your child support worker.
- Attend any required court hearings about your child support case.
- Report any child support paid directly to you by the other parent to your BadgerCare Plus worker.

#### What will happen if I do not cooperate?

If you are referred to child support and do not cooperate with your child support agency, BadgerCare Plus benefits will end for you when your baby is two months old. However, your children will continue to receive BadgerCare Plus benefits.

Not cooperating may also affect other aid or benefits you receive from the W-2, Wisconsin Shares (child care), SSI Caretaker Supplement, and Kinship Care programs.

#### What should I do if I am told that I am not cooperating, but I believe I am?

If you do not agree with the Child Support program's decision that you are not cooperating, you may ask your child support agency for a review. The child support agency will set up a meeting with a "fact finder" to review your case. You may bring a representative (a friend, relative, lawyer, etc.) with you to this meeting. If you cannot travel to this meeting, ask about attending the meeting by phone. The fact finder will mail you a notice of the findings. If the fact finder decides you have not been cooperating, the notice will tell you how to appeal the decision.

## **Good Cause**

### **What if I have a good reason for not cooperating with child support?**

If you believe you or your children would be harmed if you cooperate, you should talk with your BadgerCare Plus worker and file a “Good Cause” claim. The BadgerCare Plus agency will decide whether or not Good Cause exists.

### **What is “Good Cause”?**

Good Cause exists when:

- You believe that cooperating might cause physical or emotional harm to you or your child, or
- Your child was conceived as a result of incest or sexual assault, or
- An adoption petition has been filed with the court, or
- You are being helped for three (3) months or less by a social services agency regarding termination of parental rights.

You will be asked to give written evidence to support your Good Cause claim. If you have problems getting evidence, your BadgerCare Plus worker can help you.

The BadgerCare Plus agency will consider the evidence you present, and decide whether or not you will have to cooperate with the child support agency under these circumstances.

### **What if I do not agree with the Good Cause decision?**

If you do not agree with the final decision about Good Cause, you may request a Good Cause fact-finding review from your BadgerCare Plus agency.

The fact finder will mail you a notice of the findings. If the fact finder decides you do not have Good Cause, the notice will tell you how to appeal the decision.

### **I am worried what might happen if the other parent knows my whereabouts. What can I do?**

If the release of your address, phone number, employer, or other location information would put you or your children at risk of harm, ask your child support worker for privacy protection.

For more information about BadgerCare Plus,

- Go online:  
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/badgercareplus/index.htm>
- Call: 1-800-362-3002 or 711 (TTY)
- Email: [memberservices@wisconsin.gov](mailto:memberservices@wisconsin.gov)

## Need more information?

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- Contact your local child support agency for information about your case. Phone numbers are listed under “County Government” or tribal name and online at [dcf.wisconsin.gov](http://dcf.wisconsin.gov).
- Go to [dcf.wisconsin.gov](http://dcf.wisconsin.gov) for more information about child support and support services. Most public libraries offer free Internet access

### Or contact:

The Department of Children and Families is an equal opportunity employer and service provider. If you have a disability and need to access this information in an alternate format, call the Wisconsin Relay Service (WRS) – 711. For language translation services, call the Child Support program at (608) 422-6250. For civil rights questions, call (608) 422-6889.